Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EFIN, MILI, IN

SUBJ: INDIAN DEFENSES EXPENDITURE T

REF: NEW DELHI A-139

1. A ZLRREN UNNA STORYIN THE STATESMAN COMMENTED ON TESTIMONY OF ASSISTANT AID ADMINISTRATOR ALFRED WHITE BEFORE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS NEAR EAST AND SOUTH ASIA SUBCOMMITTEE.

THE STORY NOTED CONGRESSIONAL DISSATISFACTION WITH THE HIGH RATE OF INDIAN DEFENSE SPENDING AND THE NUCLEAR EXPLOSION LAST

MAY. WHEN TOLD THAT THE GOI WAS CUTTING BACK ON FAMILY PLANNING AND OTHER SOCIAL WELFARE EXPENDITURE, CONGRESSMAN LEE HAMILTON POINTEDLY ENQUIRED "WHAT IS THE PERCENTAGE OF CUTBACK IN THE DEFENSE BUDGET?

IN FACT, THE 1974/75 BUDGETESTIMATE SHOWS A 9 PERCENT RISE IN DEFENSE SPENDING FROM RS. 17.53 BILLION (\$2.19 BILLION) IN IFY 1973/74 TO RS. 19.15 BILLION (\$2.39 BILLION).

DEFENSE SPENDING REPRESENTS 22 PERCENT OF TOTAL GOI 1974/75 BUDGET EXPENDITURES, AS COMPARED TO 20.8 PERCENT FOR THE REVISED 1973/74 BUDGET. ARMY EXPENDITURES WILL RISE ONLY 5 PERCENT WHILE THE NAVY AND AIR FORCE WILL BE INCREASED 13 PERCENT. SCHNEIDER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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